Study report on the minorities,

†1250. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Zoya Hasan Committee, set up by the Planning Commission to study about minorities, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Chairman of the Committee, Shri Zoya Hasan has discussed the problems being faced by the minorities with Government; and

(c) if so, the point discussed and the decisions taken by Government with regard to the said discussion?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Planning Commission set up a working group on "Empowerment of the Minorities" under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Zoya Hasan. The working group has submitted its report to the Planning Commission.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

State Level Minority Commission

1251. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States are not showing interest to set up State Level Minority Commission; if is, the details of such States;

(b) the steps taken by Government to set up State level Commissions;

(c) whether a conference of Minority Commissions was held at Delhi recently; and

(d) if so, the details of subjects discussed and the cutcome there of?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) State Governments, which have not yet set up State Minority Commissions are, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim and Tripura.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Concerned State Governments have been advised on a number of occasions to take appropriate action in the matter.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Minorities convened the 5th Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions at New Delhi on 2nd November, 2006. Amongst the major issues discussed in the Conference were the following:—

(i) Minorities should feel safe and get a fair and reasonable share of development.

(ii) Communal peace and harmony should be maintained.

(iii) Special tribunals should be set up to deal with communal offences.

(iv) The victims of communal carnage should be given adequate financial support for rehabilitation.

(v) Minorities should get a fair share in Central and State Government jobs, both in the public and private sectors.

(vi) Lack of access to the common school system is mainly responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the minority communities, particularly the muslim community and muslim girls. A thrust for education is to be made for the blocks and districts having a predominantly Muslim population and widening of access to professional and technical education.

(vii) Government should monitor implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities.

(viii) The Scholarship schemes funded by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation should be enlarged to cover the post-matric level also.

(ix) The Wakf Board properties should be utilized to open educational institutions.

(x) The status of the National Commission for Minorities should be raised to a constitutional body.

The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, announced in June, 2006 addreses many of these concerns.